

### SAFETY IS IN OUR NAME! FREEDOM IS IN OUR HEARTS!

## **Women Who Ride Motorcycles**

By Rachel Ducker, ICMS Chairman(woman)

In the history of motorcycle riding and motorcycle organizations, it has mostly been male dominated. In the past decade we have seen an increase in women riders. With the introduction of International Woman's Riding Day, women riding clubs and organizations in the last two decades, have increased. Also, social media has helped increase the popularity amongst women.



January - March 2023

It is shown that one in five registered riders in the U.S. are women - this is a significant trend. In the generation of baby boomers we saw only nine percent of women riding which then increased with Gen X, to 22 percent and now with

Gen Y, has increased to 26 percent. It is predicted to continue to increase with each generation. The younger generations look to social media and it is flooded with women riders sharing their passion for two wheels and the road.

It was comical as I did research on women riders. I came across one article that classified women who rode into 5 categories. I had to laugh as it stated the independent ones that work on there own stuff, are tattooed up, were the chopper girl and you better beware. The article delved into, café bike culture, Harley girls and sport bike women the eye candy of the community. Last but not lease was the dirt bike girls who want to get dirty and will make sure all men are second on race day. I was intrigued at how someone could even start to group women into categories based on what they ride.

The stereotypes that women must over come is all to common when in a predominately man dominated world. I know myself on my 08 HD Heritage Softail with 14-inch apes and blanket roll, I get questioned all the time if I can really ride that bike. The men I ride with never are questioned on how they ride their bikes. Many women face the misconception of being ignorant or misinformed of the machines they are riding. A lot of self-doubt is what I have seen holding women back from riding their own.

The many factors in our community I have seen in why women don't ride, the inherent danger and the lash back from friends and family. You will find that it is asked all too often to women who ride with families at home, "who will take care of your family?" Despite this, more and more women are finding freedom of the road calls to them. They are out in force riding for causes in the community, finding other women riders to join on road trips and joining organizations to advocate for other women riders.

As I step into my new role with ICMS as Chairman of the Board, I have found that I am breaking into new territory as a women. I am the first female Chairman in our organization. While many women have been on the Board in the past and present, I am honored to be the first female Chair of ICMS. I have always been an advocate for women to get out and try riding themselves and have also encouraged them to overcome their fears. I lift up every individual I meet to do what they love and find the passion inside themselves. I hope more and more sisters get on those two (and three) wheels and free their souls as I did. I know my two passions are riding my motorcycle and lobbying for motorcycle rights and safety. I look forward to serving and making ICMS even stronger during my time as Chair. Thank you all for your continued support of ICMS!

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These are the people who are willing to give their time and energy to help protect your rights to Keep Idaho Free!

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Dear Readers-Feel free to use any articles or items in The Two Wheel Advocate Idaho Coalition for Motorcycle Safety

### I.C.M.S. Calendar of Events

# ICMS 2023

Motorcycle Awareness Rally May 6, 2023

> Friends Ride May 7, 2023

Friends Ride June 11, 2023

Fun Valley Run July 7-9, 2023

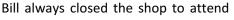
Friends Ride August 13, 2023

Friends Ride September 10, 2023

Friends Ride October 15, 2023

### **OUR FRIEND - BILL BLANDIN**

Our friend Bill Blandin was first elected to the Board of the Idaho Coalition for Motorcycle Safety in 1997. And although he only served one term on the Board, his influence in the affairs of motorcyclists was felt until we lost him in 2022. He and his wife, Sheli, started Bill's Bike Works in Meridian in a small shop in 2001, then moved to the large one on Main Street in 2003. Support for ICMS was always present in the shop. Bill loaned his motorcycle trailer to ICMS for many years to collect food for the Can Dance and then stored it in his shop until we distributed it. Each year the board gathered there to get the food out. Another friend, Dave Emery, reworded standard Christmas songs to give them a motorcycle theme and we all sang in joy and reverence to the season and our lifestyle.



the weekend party in Pine that we call ICMS Fun Valley Run. Bill was a fixture on the porch at the Pine Motel on Saturday and Sunday mornings, drinking coffee, BSing with friends and getting his head right for the day. He once told the story of leaving the shop on Cole Road, after moving there in 2011, and hauling a\$\$ toward the freeway then stopped by one of Ada County's finest. He was sure he was going to get a ticket. However, the officer noticed an ICMS patch on his vest. Bill was asked if he knew one of the current ICMS Board members. When he replied that he did, the officer gave him back his license and told him to slow down and have a nice weekend. Bill counted that as a benefit of belonging to ICMS.

Bill's reputation as a skilled and honest mechanic grew throughout the years. He was always super busy during the riding season and kept busy in the winter as well. He sometimes had to hire help to handle his many loyal customers. He was never shy about sharing his wealth of knowledge with those who worked with him. His customers often became friends. For Bill, working was not just about making a living, it was about serving the motorcycling community he loved. And while his wife Sheli, a long time ICMS Board member herself, is keeping the shop open with a highly qualified mechanic in the shop, Bill is, and will always be, missed by all that knew him. Until then old friend.









**Bill's Bike Works** 

### Thirteen Steps to Avoid Crashes on a Motorcycle

by Lane Triplett

1. **THIS IS THE CARDINAL RULE:** Always assume every motorist on the road is going to do something wrong which will hurt or kill a motorcyclist. That guy driving toward the intersection? Assume he's going to turn left in front of the approaching

motorcycle. That woman sitting at the intersection? Assume she's going to pull out just as the motorcycle reaches the intersection. That guy parked along the curb with his motor running? Assume he's going to pull out into traffic just as the motorcycle is reaching the parked car and so on.....

2. Slow down when approaching intersections, even if no other motorists are visible. Roadways approaching intersections, especially in town, often cannot be properly viewed until right on them. Assume there are vehicles approaching from both directions at intersections, and that they will blow through the stop signs. By slowing down before the intersection, the motorcyclist is better prepared to deal with this unexpected danger.

3. DO NOT rely on the other driver's eyes. It may look like that other driver is staring right at the motorcyclist. Many times, drivers are looking right "through" the motorcyclist, focusing on the larger vehicles in traffic. In this situation, the motorcycle becomes "invisible" to the motorist.

4. DO rely on the other motorist's wheels. Instead of looking at the eyes of a motorist stopped at an intersection, look at the wheels of the car. The wheels do not lie. If the wheels start to move, the motorcyclist should brake as though the vehicle is going to pull out in front of the motorcycle.

5. When a motorcycle and car are approaching an intersection from opposite directions, assume that the car is going to make a lethal left in front of the motorcycle. Slow down. Cover the brakes. Be ready to pound the brakes if the car shows any sign of turning. Remember, look at the wheels, not the eyes.

6. Whenever possible, a motorcyclist should go through intersections with a vehicle beside the motorcycle. That way, if somebody does run a red light or stop sign, the motorcycle is protected, at least from one direction.

7. Check tire pressure and tire condition before riding. Improperly inflated tires can lead to tire failure. At high speeds, tire failure can be fatal.

8. If a car is following a motorcycle too closely (closer than three seconds behind), try waving the car back. If the car won't move back to a proper following distance, pull over to the shoulder and let them by. If something happens that requires hard braking by a motorcycle with a car following too closely, chances are greatly increased that the car rear-ends the motorcycle. Remember, in a crash, the car (almost) always wins.

9. If a car passes and then pulls back in front of the motorcycle too closely (again, closer than a three-second gap), brake gently and back off to create the three-second safety buffer. Anything closer, and the motorcyclist doesn't get enough time to reach to things that "pop out" from under the car, like dead animals, chunks of tire, etc.

10. Don't follow vehicles too closely. Keep that minimum three-second safety buffer between the motorcycle and the traffic in front. Any closer, and the risk of rear-ending the vehicle in front in the event of a sudden slow-down goes up dramatically. Those folks in the vehicle ahead may be nice people, but the motorcyclist does not want to meet them by coming through the back window.

11. Never park directly behind another vehicle at a stoplight, remain in gear and frequently check your mirrors. Make sure the driver in front of you can clearly see you. Parking off to the side gives you an escape route to avoid a rear-end collision.

12. DO NOT enter an intersection from a stop until you are sure that all cross traffic has come to a complete stop. Do not trust that the oncoming vehicle will stop. Red light and stop sign runners are rampant.

13. DO stay out of other driver's blind spots, especially trucks. Loud pipes make noise but do not necessarily save lives.





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# **Legislation Watch**



# 2023 Idaho Legislative Session

by Lori Solders ICMS Government Relations Officer

The 2023 Legislative Session is winding down. Set forth are a few Bills ICMS was following and/or working on with our Idaho Legislators.

House Bill 133 - Amends existing law to allow private parental driver's education - was brought before the Legislature in 2022. This law would allow parents, instead of licensed instructors, to teach children Driver's Education. ICMS testified against this Bill, along with Driver's Education Instructors and concerned citizens. The Bill didn't make it out of Committee.

It was brought again in the 2023 Session. ICMS again testified against this Bill as a huge safety concern for motorcyclists. Driver's Education Instructors must carry a large insurance policy, there is a brake on the passenger side of the vehicle and the vehicle is marked to inform motorists/motorcyclists there is a new driver on the road. Parents would not have to adhere to this and the public would not be able to tell whether it's just another bad driver or a new driver. Unfortunately, the Bill passed the House and the Senate and made its way to the Governor's desk for review and passage. Fortunately, Governor Little VETOED the Bill. We hope this will save more young lives and motorcyclists alike. (See Gov. Little letter)



March 21, 2023

The Honorable Mike Moyle Speaker of the House Idaho House of Representatives

Via Hand Delivery

Dear Mr. Speaker,

I hereby advise you that I have returned without my approval, disapproved, and vetoed the following House bill, to wit:

HOUSE BILL 133

within the time prescribed by law, the same having arrived in the Office of the Governor at the hour of 12:25 p.m. on March 15, 2023.

Driver's education training teaches students the skills and awareness they need to be responsible drivers. This training is necessary to ensure safety.

Currently, Class D drivers training permits are provided for students through public schools or private driving businesses. Both entities adhere to the same guidelines for course training. This creates a fair and thorough system to ensure students are prepared for the responsibility of driving.

House Bill 133 allows parents to be private educators for Class D drivers training permits. This change creates inconsistencies in training guidelines between parental and traditional training, such as class instruction time and the observation time in a driver training car.

I appreciate and understand the intent behind this piece of legislation. That said, I cannot support allowing different requirements for driver's training. Safety must be the utmost priority when preparing students for the responsibility of driving and there needs to be clear, consistent, and fair guidelines.

Sincerely, Brad Little

Brad Little Governor of Idaho

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#### 2023 Idaho Legislative Session . . . cont.



Senate Bill 1053 - Removes exemption from 49-613 of trucks engaged in maintenance or construction on highways exempt from this law. The Bill was brought before the Legislator by first term Senator James R. Just. ICMS met with Senator Just in support of the Bill. The Bill went before the Senate Transportation Committee and was sent for amendment to exempt government employees in performance of maintenance or construction of a highway, i.e. Sand/De-Icing Trucks. To date, the Bill has passed the Senate and is currently before the House Transportation Committee.

Senate Bill 1058 - Amendment to Chapter 80, Title 18, addition of new section in Idaho Code related to Reckless and Distracted Driving was brought before the Senate Judiciary & Rules Committee by Senator Linda Wright Hartgen. As you may know, ICMS worked with Legislators a few years ago and got a Distracted Driving Bill passed. Senate Bill 1058 would add to that for stiffer penalties, justice and restitution for families and victims who have been involved in a crash due to a distracted/aggressive driver. We testified in support of this Bill. Unfortunately, it did not make it out of Committee. A few of the arguments against the Bill were, "There are 'good people' out there that could be affected by passing this Bill." So, (in my personal opinion) drivers distracted while talking on their phone, not paying attention to their surroundings, dropping something on the floor of their vehicle and reaching down to pick it up, not watching the road, hit and kill another motorist/motorcycle are exempt from being held accountable for the accident or killing someone because they are "good people" and I guess, don't have to adhere to the rules of the road. Like I said, my opinion only. We are in contact with Senator Hartgen and she stated this Bill will be worked on during the summer to be brought before the Legislature again in 2024.

We at ICMS are committed to keep fighting for Motorcycle Rights, Freedom and Safety. If you are not a member of IMCS, <u>PLEASE JOIN</u>. Whether you want to be active or just support, there is strength in numbers and it helps as we walk the halls of the Capitol to show lawmakers motorcyclists have a voice in our State and want to be able to ride and not have to constantly worry if the next ride will be our last.





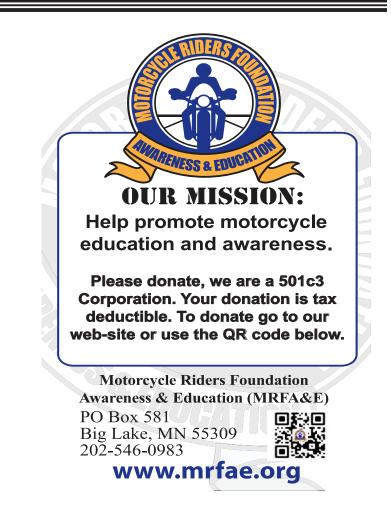
## It's time you did something more to protect your rights! Join and Support Motorcycle Riders Foundation! REGISTER,VOTE, AND RIDE!

Mail to: Motorcycle Riders Foundation - PO Box 250 - Highland II 62249 - Phone: 202.546.0983 - www.mrf.org - mrfoffice@mrf.org

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Email	□ New □ Renewal
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We would love to see more volunteers at ICMS events. If you would like to volunteer for any ICMS event, please contact the Volunteers Officer, Amber Sheffield, at:

amberpressley81@gmail.com or any ICMS Board Member. "It takes a Village," they say!





\*\* NOTE \*\* IF CAMPING, CALL (208) 653-2323 TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT PRIOR TO THE WEEKEND. ICMS CANNOT RESERVE THE CAMPGROUND.

ADMISSION INCLUDES BIKER TRASH BASH SATURDAY NIGHT (WEAR BIKER TRASH CLOTHES), RODEO, EVENT BUTTON, AND LIVE MUSIC BY JUPITER'S CHILD! BBQ DINNER WILL BE AVAILABLE.

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#### From our Friends/Partners at American Motorcyclist Association

ti tr

t's a good question, one that many of us already know the answer to: Are

a potential nightmare in the coming years due to all this autonomous-vehicle (AV) technology?

As if the border crisis, out-of-control crime and inflation, pushing adult subject matter on *elementary school* kids without parental knowledge, 70,000 Fentanyl deaths in the last 12 months, and a whole range of other nasty outcomes weren't enough, the whole AV thing has reached a point where even the most non-political, non-curious and non-involved person might ask...*What the hell is going on in this country*?

While watching my Giants get walloped by the hated (by Giants fans, anyway) Eagles last weekend, I was treated to a range of four-wheeled idiocy by the likes of General Motors/ GMC and other automakers: Commercials showing drivers taking their hands off the wheel, singing and clapping and looking around with clueless smiles, and all acting as if piloting a 5,000-pound SUV held the same level of risk to passengers, pedestrians and other drivers as a video game.

Our own Joy Burgess opined about driver inattention in our April 2022 issue, writing: "The facts don't lie. Distracted driving and inattentive driving behaviors — like those I'd argue we see in these commercials are a significant contributor to motor vehicle crashes. In fact, according to a National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) report, 'Driver inattention is the leading factor in most crashes and near-crashes...Nearly 80 percent of crashes and 65 percent of near-crashes involved some form of driver inattention..."

The other day I was treated to a

BY MITCH BOEHM

PERSPECTIVES

HANDS OFF THE

Mercedes-Benz release on its new DRIVE PILOT technology, which Nevada just approved for use, and which allows drivers to take their hands off the wheel but requires them to "retake control if the system encounters a complicated situation on the road." In promotional material, Mercedes says the system "gives customers back time so they can focus on certain secondary activities such as communicating with colleagues...browsing the web or relaxing while watching a movie." and doing little to control this silliness. It's not unlike continuing to allow China-supplied Fentanyl, which kills thousands every year, to gush across the Southern border unchecked — and doing nothing to limit it.

What's behind the pell-mell rush to autonomous oblivion — or at least unnecessary pain and misery? Are the non-Tesla OEs worried they'll be looked at as technologically inept by the industry and public if they don't push the AV envelope? Are the DOT and Congress simply looking at each other, frozen in

#### STOP PAYING ATTENTION? BROWSING THE WEB? WATCHING MOVIES? ALL WHILE DRIVING? ARE THESE PEOPLE ON CRACK? DO THEY HAVE ANY CONNECTION TO REALITY AT ALL?

Stop paying attention? Browsing the web? Watching movies? All while driving? Are these people on crack? Do they have any connection to reality at all?

This sorta stuff is exactly what's referred to in that NHTSA report, and it's a subject the AMA has been speaking out about for several years...driver inattention killing thousands of drivers and riders each year. Safe and responsible driving and riding demands skills and focus, right? Is this a new concept? Sheesh...

Yet these automakers, with a nod and a wink from some states and the U.S. Department of Transportation, are ramping up for even more autonomous-vehicle surprises for us, as the inertia of this whole AV concept keeps building. I'm not a big government-regulations guy, and neither is the AMA. But if there ever was an area screaming for red-tape attention and oversight, this is it.

Sadly, our bureaucrat class and socalled "leaders" are looking askance place, each expecting the other to move first, with the end result being that *nothing happens*? And where is the media in all this?

It's hard to know. But whatever the reasons, this push to *encourage distracted driving* in the face of so much other helpful safety technology — such as collision-avoidance hardware and software — seems illogical, counterproductive and hugely risky.

Motorcycling is dangerous enough without our four-wheel friends ramping up inattentiveness and mental sloth to historic levels. Let's hope that some semblance of logic and common sense wins out.

The AMA will keep an eye on all this and report as necessary. But your voice is important, so contact your state and federal representatives and let them know how you feel.

> Mitch Boehm is the Editorial Director of the AMA

#### Two Wheel Advocate



Bryan and Nick Stock Harley Davidson: Service, Dyno Tunes, Customizing & Performance Builds 3313 Brown St. Ste. #9 Boise, TD. 83714 Phone: 208–331–7001 Fax: 208–331–7011 THE ISSUE IS FREEDOM OF CHOICE



If they made a law that we couldn't wear helmets – we'd fight that too.

The issue is Freedom of Choice. Idaho still has Freedom of Choice. Help keep it that way. Join ICMS today.



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# **Battle Lines Being Drawn**

In August 2022 California Governor Gavin Newsom announced, and the California Air Resources Board (CARB) approved, an executive order requiring sales of all new passenger vehicles be zero-emission by 2035. While the California directive doesn't include motorcycles yet, motorcyclist advocates in the Golden State have warned that motorcycles will be an obvious next target.

Unsurprisingly, other states quickly followed suit and enacted similar policies. Massachusetts, Oregon, Washington, New York, New Jersey, and Maryland have all sought to put similar restrictions in place. In total 17 states have laws that bind their emissions regulations to those of California.

However, leaders in many states, including those that are obliged to follow California's lead, are pushing back. In Colorado, the Energy Office said, "While the governor shares the goal of rapidly moving towards electric vehicles, he is skeptical about requiring 100% of cars sold to be electric by a certain date as technology is rapidly changing."

Virginia governor Glenn Youngkin was even more forceful, "I am already at work to prevent this ridiculous edict from being forced on Virginians. California's out of touch laws have no place in our Commonwealth."

This month the New Hampshire House of Representatives voted down a bill that would have forced New Hampshire to match California's emissions goals.

Congressional Republicans are also joining the fight against the California policies. Last week H.R. 1435 was introduced, titled the "Preserving Choice in Vehicle Purchases Act." H.R. 1435 would amend the Clean Air Act to prevent the elimination of the sale of internal combustion engines, effectively overruling California's move. Within just a week, 66 cosponsors from 26 different states joined in support.

The movement isn't contained to the United States. Last month, the European Parliament formally approved a law to effectively ban the sale of new gas and diesel powered vehicles in the European Union starting in 2035. But Europe, too, is seeing pushback. Farmers in the Netherlands have taken to the streets in protest of emissions regulations. Member nations of the EU are also expressing a desire to make changes to the newly enacted policy. Germany, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia are discussing what changes they'd like to see to the European Union's 2035 plan.

# Battle Lines Being Drawn ... cont.

This issue is not new to the MRF. Our 2023 legislative agenda includes this priority: "Work against any efforts by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) that endanger the future of motorcycling."

We are ready for this fight and will work with partners across the country to defend the future of motorcycling and the lifestyle we cherish!

#### **About Motorcycle Riders Foundation**

The Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) provides leadership at the federal level for states' motorcyclists' rights organizations as well as motorcycle clubs and individual riders. The MRF is chiefly concerned with issues at the national and international levels that impact the freedom and safety of American street motorcyclists. The MRF is committed to being a national advocate for the advancement of motorcycling and its associated lifestyle and works in conjunction with its partners to help educate elected officials and policymakers in Washington and beyond.



#### AN INVITATION TO JOIN ICMS

At a time when our democratic process stands ready to strip us, as motorcyclists and citizens, of our rights to ride free and unencumbered, ICMS offers all motorcyclists the opportunity to join together and fight back. Whether the issue is mandatory helmet use, discrimination against "lifestyle" choice or our safety on Idaho's roads, ICMS is prepared to mobilize its strengths in the direction of best defense... and one of ICMS's greatest strengths is its MEMBERSHIP. ICMS believes the direction of best defense is through Education. From educating its membership on the latest legislative battle, educating the legislators themselves on "the other half of the story;" to making motorists more aware of motorcyclists on our highways to training riders to ride safe.

Joining ICMS is making a commitment to defend your freedom with active involvement and financial support. As an ICMS member, you have the opportunity to attend monthly Board Meetings, Runs, Rallies, and a host of other Events throughout the state. The most active members are involved by joining committees, holding office, manning telephones, writing articles for the newsletter or doing any one of the million-and-one things that have to be done. ICMS members tend not to be passive, work well together and even more, PLAY WELL TOGETHER!

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